

April 19, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Harlan Cleveland

COPY TO: The Secretary of State

FROM: W. W. Rostow

SUBJECT: Communist Arms Shipments into Latin America.

Last evening, April 18, the President raised with me the following question: Would it be possible to introduce into current or early United Nations debate the question of the Communist arms flow into Latin America? He had two matters in mind: first, the possibility of diverting exclusive attention away from the hostilities in Cuba; and, second, laying a basis for a later U. S. position on Communist arms flow into Cuba should it develop on a large scale.

I am sure what the President meant was for those responsible for our United Nations position to consider these problems. He was not laying down instructions.

You may wish to pass along your reflections on this matter.